

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to acknowledge the claim for foreign priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority documents provided earlier.

The Office action restricts the invention to one of the following groups of claims:

- I. Claims 1-10, drawn to a method; and
- II. Claim 11, drawn to a device or apparatus.

In response, applicants provisionally elects, with traverse, to prosecute claims 1-10, identified as species I, along with any newly added claims drawn to the same species. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of the non-elected claims in a divisional or other continuing application.

Applicants' traversal is based at least on the fact that claims 8-10 recite a subcombination, and claims 11-13 recite combinations that depend on the subcombinations of claims 8-10, respectively. As explained below, in this case the combination and subcombination are not separable and therefore there should be no restriction.

In order for a combination and a subcombination to be considered separate inventions for the purposes of restriction, two conditions must both be shown. One condition is that the subcombination must have utility either by itself or in other or different relations. It must also be shown that the combination does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability. **MPEP 806.05(c)**. In this case, it is very clear that the combination does require the particulars of the subcombination, since claims 11-13 themselves require the particulars of the subcombination of claims 8-10, respectively. Accordingly, restriction is not proper and the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

Claims are amended for non-statutory reasons, to correct one or more informalities and/or to replace European claim phraseology with U.S. claim language

having the same meaning. The claims are not narrowed in scope. New dependent claims are added. No new matter is added.

Withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination of the application on its merits are now respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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